AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A video recorder, comprising:

a processor communicating with memory, the memory storing video data of an event captured by a camera, the video data comprising a series of picture frames;

a loop buffer also storing the video data of the event captured by the camera, the loop buffer storing the video data for a predetermined duration of time, after which the video data is transferred or discarded;

a set of rules stored in the memory, the set of rules determining when to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory;

when the processor determines that the event does not satisfy the set of rules is unsatisfied, then the processor discards the contents of the loop buffer;

when the processor determines that the event satisfies a rule of the set of rules is satisfied, then the processor transfers the contents of the loop buffer to the memory to provide time-delayed video data that precedes the event, the time-delayed video data preceding the event that satisfies a rule of the set of rules that causes transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory; and

the processor tags the preceding time-delayed video data with metadata describing the rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory.

2. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a mass-storage device, the mass storage device storing the video data of the event.

3. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises an optical storage device.

4. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a memory card.

5. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a flash memory storage device.

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6. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface to a communications network.

7. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the set of rules specifies vehicular data that causes a transfer of the contents of the loop buffer into the memory devices memory.

8. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising a switch to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.

9. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the loop buffer also stores audio data of the event captured by a microphone.

10. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface with a vehicle controller to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.

11. (Previously Presented) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising:

　　　　means for receiving vehicular data describing powertrain management system information, electrical management system information, and chassis management system information; and

　　　　means for storing the set of rules specifying the vehicular data that causes the transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

　　　　storing video data of an event in memory, the video data captured by a camera and comprising a series of picture frames;

　　　　storing the video data of the event in a loop buffer, the loop buffer storing the video data for a predetermined duration of time, after which the video data is transferred or discarded;

　　　　applying a set of rules <u>indicating when</u> to transfer the contents of the loop buffer to the memory;

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when <u>the event does not satisfy</u> the set of rules <s>is unsatisfied</s>, then discarding the contents of the loop buffer;

when <u>the event satisfies</u> a rule <u>of the set of rules</u> <s>is satisfied</s>, then transferring the contents of the loop buffer to the memory to provide video data that precedes the event <u>that satisfies a rule of the set of rules that causes transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory</u>; and

tagging the preceding video data with metadata describing the rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a mass-storage device.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to an optical storage device.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a flash memory storage device.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer via a communications network.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a switch to transfer video data of the event.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring audio data of the event.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a vehicle controller to transfer video data of the event.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising:

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receiving vehicular data describing powertrain management system information, electrical management system information, and chassis management system information; and

storing the set of rules specifying the vehicular data that causes the transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory.